10th Year April Issue Spring 2004

### **DSDHH NEWS**

Division of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

5709 South 1500 West Taylorsville, UT 84123

www.deafservices.utah.gov



"Keep your face to the sunshine and you will not see the shadows." — Helen Keller

Inside this issue:

Legislation 2004

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And much more...

### We know where we want to go! DSDHH Strategic Plan -We are reaching our goals

Marilyn Call, Division Director

One day Alice in Wonderland came to a fork in the road and saw a cheshire cat in a tree.

"Which road do I take?" She asked.

He responded with a question.

"Where do you want to go?"

"Mmmm, I don't know." Alice answered.

"Then," said the cat, "it doesn't matter."

As a Division which provides services to Deaf and Hard of Hearing people, it is important to know where we want to go. Three and a half years ago, when Rusty Wales was the Division Director, we began a strategic planning process. Last year we met again and assigned a leader to each of the thirteen objectives that had been defined. Today, we are making some good progress. Progress that actually tied into our goals for this most recent Legislative session. I would like to share with you some of the concrete achievements we have reached at this time.

Strategy 1. Develop and implement an effective public relations plan. We recently completed the production of a DVD/CD that is a compilation of the many activities and services that take place at our Center. It also educates people on how to use things such as a TTY and interpreter services, and describes some important things about Deaf Culture. What is amazing is how easy this is to use. People can put it into the cd rom drive of their computers and learn about our Center. We are currently making 1,000 copies. If you would like one of these, contact Mitch Moyers by calling him at 801-263-4887 (voice) / 801-263-4895 (tty) or through email at mmoyers@utah.gov.

**Strategy 2**. *Improve individualized services and assist in coordinating with other agencies.* We now have a full time Case Manager, Joene Nicolaisen, who is assisted by Gloria Hall. Together they provide individualized help to numerous Deaf and Hard of Hearing people.

**Strategy 9**. Collaborate and advocate for statewide mental health services. A small group

of Deaf individuals, organized by Lynnette Johnson, made some giant strides at this year's Legislature with HB 101 and HB 264. A front page article in the local newspaper, the Deseret News, helped spread the awareness of Deaf Mental Health services. (For more details read Joene Nicolaisen's article on page 5.)

Strategy 10. Develop state-wide services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people. This year the Legislature appropriated \$100,000 for Deaf and Hard of Hearing services in St. George. Our division began by sending staff to St. George, then hired two part time temporary staff, Mari Moss and Julie McCleave. The wonderful Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in southern Utah began meeting earlier this year with the powerful legislators and... PAH! The funding, which will become available July 1, 2004, will help establish a small center with two full time employees to provide much needed services in that area. A big thanks should be written to Senator Bill Hickman and Representative Dave Clark who were strong advocates.

Strategy 11. Develop and provide statewide adult education classes. Laurie Moyers has done a great job coordinating classes in Salt Lake City, St. George, and now in Utah County. Sue Ordonez has also hired several people in Salt Lake City, Provo and St. George to teach classes on hard of hearing issues.

We - meaning our DSDHH staff and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing people who continually volunteer their time and energy to us - have accomplished a lot this past year. Let's all go get a hot fudge sundae and celebrate our accomplishments along the way!

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at
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# Be Sure to Watch Your Step! One hazard of the new technology for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

#### Mitch Moyers, Outreach Specialist

I believe it was the year 1979. However, my memory of the EXACT day is a little fuzzy. I was, after all, just barely 9 years old. Yet, at that time in my life a mighty change occurred in my home. I began to understand what was being said on television! Well, some of it at least, depending on whether or not the program was closed captioned. I was not allowed to watch the popular evening soap opera, "Dallas", which was captioned. However, I was allowed to watch the "Dukes of Hazzard," which was not captioned at the time.

Oh well, 2 progressive steps forward, one step back.

Let's fast forward to today... Not only are many more programs available to us now, there are also many more programs with closed captioning. We have hundreds of channels to watch! It was just 30 years ago that we had to adjust the antenna on the TV just to see one of the "Big Three" (ABC, NBC, CBS) channels and maybe PBS. Today, we only need to adjust the parental ratings on our cable boxes to control what our kids watch.

Hmmm...2 progressive steps forward, one step back?

Like television, technology has advanced by leaps and bounds during much of our lifetime. It seems to be progressing at a faster pace today than possibly 10 years ago. I can't even imagine what will be available to us in a few years. New electronic means of communication for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people has become a godsend. For those who felt shut-out from their family, friends and peers it is changing lives by allowing more access to communication. On the other hand, we also see computer chat rooms and instant messaging taking place of the face to face contact so critical to relationships.

Again, we see 2 progressive steps forward, one step back.

There is an issue I feel is worth mentioning here. With every 2 progressive steps forward, we can almost be certain there will be one step backward from previous progress we've made. For example, Videophones, Video Relay Services (VRS), wireless pagers, etc... Many of us who are either Deaf or Hard of Hearing are starting to see our TTYs (once a big forward progress for many) are gathering dust from a lack of use.

TTYs are slow, restricting, and unilateral. With new technology, we have the freedom to communicate with pictures and emotions, allow for interruptions, and even roam outside of our homes away from a landline telephone. The list of options is growing longer every day. It makes sense that so many Deaf and Hard of Hearing people have moved on to newer technology, discarding their old TTYs. Many are also canceling their phone service since their TTY is no longer needed thinking, "Why pay for another service that is rarely being used?"

However, here is where a word of caution is needed! If you are canceling the phone service in your home, you may be eliminating your only option of obtaining quick emergency services should you need them. 911 is the common number called when lives, health, and safety are at risk. When a caller dials 911, the operator automatically sees the address where the caller is located. Depending on the severity of the situation, the 911 operator can then dispatch the appropriate emergency personnel to the scene almost immediately. With videophones, VRS, and/or wireless communication as your preferred method of communication, you may be unknowingly eliminating this process. At this time any communication method other than the landline has not yet fully developed a way to assist the emergency caller as quickly and effectively as 911 can.

So, with our minds on the health and safety of our Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, we encourage you to explore all options before possibly eliminating your best source of obtaining fast emergency services. If you decide to eliminate your landline and TTY, be sure to explore other options before doing so. At least until technology continues to advance to the point that emergency contacts and services are available on all methods of communication. When that time comes I will be happy to toss this article into that pile of "remember when" anecdotes.

# APRIL is the month for VOLUNTEER Recognition

Eli McCowan, Deaf Program Specialist

At the time of this writing I wish that I could include the list of names of the many volunteers that will be involved in this month's activities. I have many volunteers who make these and other activities possible throughout the year. So, next month look for the Waving Hands and the names of the many volunteers who will support these activities:



Deaf Snow Day at Snowbird on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004 Volunteers' workshop on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004 Teenage girls' slumber party Surprise Egg Hunt on March 27<sup>th</sup> (annual Springtime event for Deaf Connections)

Such activities help celebrate the coming warm days, don't they?!

#### Our FEBRUARY "Thank You's":

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004 **Sari Lafeen** worked as the volunteer coordinator on a Saturday afternoon when many children came to the Sanderson Community Center to make "ILY" heart pins for their parents. Sari had some very wonderful volunteers on that day: **Julie Lamb, Sarah Loflin, Paul Ortiz, Jen Maness, Sonya Slonait**, and a wonderful set of brothers - **Bob William, Zach Lafeen, and Zarren Lafeen.** Waving hands to all of the volunteers, including Sari!!!

I would also like to honor the Gold Hearts, my special group of volunteers from various schools and from within the hearing community. It is with their precious time and energy that the activities for all age groups within the Youth and Family Program at the Robert G. Sanderson Community Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has been made easier.

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at
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#### Dear Volunteer,

Where would we be without volunteers who quickly respond when a need appears? This is the way you have chosen to serve ~ What appreciation you deserve!

There are very many things to do, and YOUR time can only be given by YOU! So without complaint and without demands, you offer the labor of your hands.

The world is a better place to live when people like you are so willing to give. With this attitude of love and care you will find a welcome anywhere.

You may not always know when someone is especially blessed by a kindness you've done. As you freely share your hours and days, may you also be blessed in many ways.

Helen Bush



# SPRING is... A time for change and renewal A time for trying something new

#### Gloria Hall, Circle of Friends

Spring is a time for change and for the renewal of ideas and of Self.

Winter's ice thaws, rain comes, and the earth smells fresh and new again.

Maybe it's time to plant your garden...

or spring clean your house...

or pack away your winter wardrobe...

Are you ready for something new?

How about spicing up your life by turning your everyday meals into a "variety show" of colorful, nutritious fruits and vegetables. When was the last time you tried a new recipe or food? Have you tasted fruits and vegetables from other countries? Most grocery stores offer a wide variety of foods that can quickly move you out of a boring "ho-hum" menu into the exciting "variety show" of new taste treats. Are you willing to go on an adventure and "spring" into something new by adding some new fruits and vegetables to your menu?

Here are a few tips to get you started:

- · Pick one new fruit/vegetable item to try each week
- · Follow a recipe you normally would not try
- · Shop at an ethnic or farmers market
- · Ask the produce manager at your local market
- · Attend cultural events and try the food there
- · Go to an ethnic restaurant
- · Take a cooking class
- · Dare to be creative
- · Take a risk and have fun with it

Choosing different foods to serve at mealtime or for snacks can make meals more interesting and colorful. It can be a new and exciting experience for everyone. Try it!

#### ATTENTION ADVENTURERS:

Here is an event that could help move you toward new flavors in your Spring menu:

#### MIDDLE EASTERN CULTURAL EVENT

APRIL 24<sup>™</sup>, 2004 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM Admission is FREE

Robert G. Sanderson Community Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing 5709 South 1500 West Taylorsville, UT

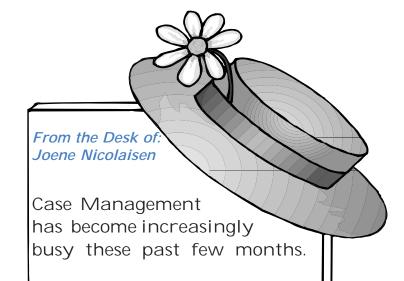


### Change Does Happen

Joene Nicolaisen, Case Manager

Change is happening to improve mental health services within the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. During the last few months many members of the community worked hard to give attention to this very important issue. In February, the Utah Association of the Deaf brought back "Deaf Day on the Hill" at the capitol. At this event there was information displayed (now on display in the lobby at the Sanderson Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) that explains the gaps in mental health services. We also witnessed individuals bravely giving testimony of the hardships they have experienced by not having appropriate mental health services.

During the Legislative session, we watched the development of two mental health Bills that would serve the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (HB 101 and HB 264). These Bills were sponsored and carried by Representative David Hogue. The Bills passed through the Health and Human Services Committee unanimously. Although they did not make it completely through the process, they got the attention and support of some very important human services agencies within the state. These agencies do have the ability to create mental health programs and services. They were listening to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. I just want to congratulate all those who were involved for speaking out and making the need for these services known. This is truly how change happens!



To help make sure everyone gets the time they need, I am now seeing individuals by appointment only.

Call: 801-313-6814 TTY only Email: jfnicolaisen@utah.gov

Thank You!



Please
Visit our website
at
www.deafservices.utah.gov

# State Wide Services (that doesn't mean Salt Lake City only)

#### Laurie Moyers, Education Coordinator

In an effort to expand services in Utah County, a town hall meeting was set up and took place on January 29, 2004 at the Lindon City Center in Lindon, Utah. The goal of this meeting was to educate Utah County residents about the various services, ranging from mental health to youth and family, that DSDHH provides. Adult community education was a service that was featured at the town hall meeting – it is this service that I wish to share more information about.

Have you ever wanted to come to an event or a class at the Robert G. Sanderson Community Center in Taylorsville, but didn't attend because of the driving distance? Or maybe you don't mind the drive, but you simply don't have the extra time or resources (babysitters, extra gas money, etc.) it requires to be able to attend? As one who lives in Utah County, I know what it takes just to be able to benefit from the same advantages Salt Lake residents enjoy. Often times Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals living in Utah County (and elsewhere outside of Salt Lake City) miss out on the valuable services DSDHH provides simply because they are not aware of what is available to them. Other times individuals are aware of the services DSDHH provides, but don't have the means to travel to Salt Lake to take advantage of these services.

A change is needed! People from the Utah Valley Deaf and Hard of Hearing community have voiced their desire for more educational classes in their area, and we have been listening. Based on feedback from residents who attended the town hall meeting in January, we have been able to get started with planning some classes for spring. Cooking, study skills, budgeting, and beginning ASL are some of the topics we are working on offering soon. More classes are in the planning stages, but the goal is to provide a variety of classes on an ongoing basis. Please check our web site, www.deafservices.utah.gov, for updates on adult community education classes each month.

Although this article specifically mentions Utah County, we want everyone to know about this service and for everyone to have the opportunity to benefit from this program. This

is a state-wide program, which means the adult community education program can serve individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing throughout the whole state of Utah, not just in Salt Lake City where our community center is located. Other than the above-mentioned Utah County example, another recent example of serving beyond Salt Lake City is the new services taking place in the Southern Utah community. YOUR LOCATION COULD BE NEXT!

If there is something you'd like to learn, let us know! We are willing to work together with you to bring about the best services possible. If you have class suggestions, or if there are any questions or concerns related to adult community education classes throughout the state of Utah, please contact me at Imoyers@utah.gov or by phone at 801-313-6806 (tty) or in-state toll free at 800-860-4860 (v/tty).

#### **UTAH COUNTY - CHECK IT OUT!**



# What to Expect from Your Hearing Aids

Sue Ordonez, Hard of Hearing Specialist

One of the most common myths that people have about wearing hearing aids is that, like glasses, you can hear "20/ 20." Unfortunately this is not the case. Hearing loss varies from person to person. Acquiring hearing aids is not merely a simple act of going to a store and purchasing a product. It is a complex process that evolves over time and begins with the hearing impaired individual accepting the realization of how his or her hearing loss affects communication with others. The motivation to hear well is the single most important factor in determining the success of the hearing aid fitting. It's important to know that you will not experience the exact same benefits from hearing aids as others who wear them. The expectations of hearing better depends on the person, the type and degree of hearing loss, past experiences, and the improvements you personally receive from amplification. By learning all you can about your personal hearing loss as well as hearing loss in general, you'll find how beneficial hearing aids are and what a difference it can make in your everyday life. Here are some realistic and reasonable expectations you can expect:

- 1. Expect others to notice your hearing loss before you do! A common complaint of hard of hearing people is that other people mumble and if they would just speak up, it would be easier to hear them! This is placing the "blame" externally, rather than accepting the reality that your ears are not as good as they used to be. By getting your hearing tested by an audiologist /hearing aid specialist, they can recommend the best hearing aids for you.
- When trying new hearing aids for the first time, you will find that you will be hearing all kinds of sounds that you may not have heard in a long time. Remember, most hearing loss is gradual over the years. Some of these will be "good sounds," like the songs of birds or high pitched voices of children. Other sounds like the humming of the refrigerator or air conditioner, car motor running, clinking of dishes can be very annoying. Research in this area has shown that this adjustment period of hearing

with hearing aids may last a few months. It takes time for the brain to re-learn all these sounds. Be patient!

- Expect your voice to sound different. If over a
  period of time you are having a hard time dealing
  with this, see your audiologist/hearing aid
  specialist. They may need to adjust your hearing
  aid or change the vent size in your earmold.
- Expect a good and comfortable hearing aid fit. If you're experiencing discomfort or irritations in your ear, report them to your audiologist/hearing aid specialist.
- 5. Expect to be able to hear well, but not perfectly, in quiet one-to-one situations and most small group settings. Your hearing aid should make speech sounds audible and comfortably loud. Depending on the type of hearing loss you have, you should not have to watch a peron's lips all the time and the stress and strain of hearing should lessen.
- 6. Expect not to hear as well in noisy environments. Noise background is one of the biggest complaints hard of hearing people have, even with hearing aids. Unfortunately hearing aids cannot eliminate background noise. Though with the newer, more sophisticated ones, they can reduce some background noise.
- Most importantly, with the right attitude and patience, expect to enjoy sounds of life again. Your hearing aids plays a big role to improving the quality of your life.

Please
Visit our website
at
www.deafservices.utah.gov

# The Robert G. Sanderson Community Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SCCDHH)

and

Self-Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH)

Invite all people with hearing loss, their families, and friends to meetings on the

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month 7:00 P.M.



APRIL 15, 2004



#### CUED SPEECH

Eight hand shapes in four locations (cues), combined with the natural mouth movements of speech, make all the sounds of spoken language look different. Individuals and families who use it, find it breaks through the confusion of incomplete and distorted sound. It could help you find the sounds you've been missing!

Presented by Shellie Burrow

### Everyone is welcome at every meeting! Tell a friend or, better yet, bring a friend...

We want all participants to fully participate and understand everything that is said. We use Comtek (an FM Assistive Listening System) and CART (captioning).

If other accommodations are needed, please let us know.

For questions or suggestions, contact either: Sue Ordonez at 801-263-4879 (voice) or 801-263-4860 (tty)

Kathy Evans through email at shhh\_slc@yahoo.com

# Free Legal Advice



When: April 21, 2004

Where: Sanderson Community Center

of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

**Time:** 4:30 PM to 7 PM

Talk in private one-on-one with lawyers from Utah Legal Services,

#### if you have concerns about:

- Employment Discrimination
- Social Security
- Food Stamps
- Medicaid/ Medicare
- Landlord/Tenant Issues
- Discrimination
- Divorce

Private Meeting

To make an appointment contact Sherry Booth at (801) 263-4861 v/tty or email to legalclinic@utah.gov







## Free Legal Advice

When: April 21, 2004 Where: Via Polycom

Utah State Office of Rehabilitation

1067 E Tabernacle #10 St George, Ut

Time: 4:30 PM to 7 PM

Talk in private one-on-one with lawyers from Utah Legal Services if you have concerns about:



- **Employment Discrimination**
- Social Security
- Food Stamps
- Medicaid/ Medicare
- Landlord/Tenant Issues
- Discrimination
- Divorce
- Custody

To schedule an appointment contact Sherry Booth at (801) 263-4861 (v/tty) or e-mail legalclinic@utah.gov





#### CLASSES ~ CLASSES ~ CLASSES

#### SANDERSON COMMUNITY CENTER

**CONFIRMED** 

Cooking Classes April 1st - 29th, Thursday Evenings 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Cooking on a Budget April 1 Better than Store Bought April 8 Fruits and Vegetables April 15 Living Single April 22 Fancy Feast April 29

Parenting from a Deaf Perspective April 3rd - May 29th, Saturday Afternoons 1:30-3:30



Developing a Professional Relationship With Your Interpreter April 6th or 7th Study Skills Workshop April 23rd or 24th

Visit our website for updates on all classes www.deafservices.utah.gov

#### **UTAH COUNTY (location TBA)**

**UNCONFIRMED** 

Study Skills Workshop April 23rd or 24th

Cooking Class April 27<sup>th</sup>

Developing a Professional Relationship with Your Interpreter April 20 or 21, 6pm - 9pm

#### SOUTHERN UTAH (location TBA)

UNCONFIRMED

Adult CPR April 9, 5pm - 9pm April 10th, 10am - 5pm Infant/Child CPR Basics of Knitting

May 19th, 26th, 31st, 6:30pm-7:30pm

### Southern Utah Update

Julie McLeave, Education Assistant

Mari Moss, Education Assistant

I can hardly wait to tell you about two new meetings coming up. Join us as we learn some valuable information. On April 13, a dispatcher from the Fire Department will be coming to address concerns. He'll instruct us on how to have your information entered regarding your hearing loss on the emergency dispatch system. He will also let us know how it works and address any concerns that you might have.

Then on April 21, Audiologist Kimball Forbes will do a presentation on the latest technology. Also, he will be providing information for spouses and family members on how they can help or deal better with their loved one who has a hearing loss. See flyer for details.

Waiting for Open Caption? Yessss...we are all patiently waiting. The latest information is that InSight Cinema and Westates Theatres need to come to an agreement. So, hopefully very soon, we'll be seeing YOU at the movies!

# 911 And YOU! Being prepared for an emergency can: Save valuable time

#### Ensure accessible services

A dispatcher from our local fire department will come to explain how to get your specific needs met regarding hearing loss and communication into the 911 system.

He will also discuss different aspects of emergencies and how their response system works.

There will be a question and answer time as well.

When: April 13, 2004 Where: Santa Clara Library

1099 N. Lava Flow Drive, St George, Utah

Time: 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM

Classes, classes...what's going on. you might ask? . Glad you're wondering. At press time, I'm in the middle of arranging a furniture refinishing class, first aid & medical signs, and a grievance class. I'm also working on forming a class on an almost forgotten practice of knitting. Now that our teachers and students have had a chance to let their minds rest, we are ready to begin our sign classes again. I'm glad to announce that we have secured a location in Hurricane. Those classes will be meeting at the library and will begin April 7.

Seen any good videos lately? Well, Ethel Busker has been busy at the brand new library in Santa Clara. She has been putting orange labels on every video that is closed caption. Now you can quickly decide what you'd like to take home for your viewing pleasure.



# Audiologist Kimball Forbes Presentation on The Latest Technology & Families

Kimball Forbes will present some of the latest technology available to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.

He will also address the issues facing spouses and family members of people who live with hearing loss.

When: April 21, 2004

Where: Washington County Library

50 S. Main Street, St George, Utah

**Time:** 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM



## Scandinavian Heritage Festival

Ephraim City, Utah on Friday, May 28th, 200



#### **VAN TRANSPORTATION**

Departure: 9 am from SCCDHH

Arrive: Late Evening at SCCDHH (after dinner)

RSVP Deadline: Friday, May 14th (Cost TBA)

Contact Eli McCowan

emccowan@utah.gov \* 801-263-4896 TTY

Sign-Up at the Front Desk \* Or call Front Desk: 801-263-4860

Day Camp - 5th Anniversary

Expressive Arts Camp

Former and Current Campers Welcome!

June 14 to 18, 2004

Watch for more information in future newsletters

(There will be a surprise for all of the parents on Friday Night!)

Robert G. Sanderson Community Center of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

5709 South 1500 West Taylorsville, Utah

801-263-4860 voice/tty

#### Lost and Found

This is a new monthly column.
It will list all items turned in as lost.
Any items not claimed by the end of each month will be donated.



- 2. dark blue diaper change pad
- 3. hunter green yoga pad (Name: M. Smith)
- 4. grass hat w/ cheetah print band
- 5. dark blue tent cover
- 6. blue "IGLOO" thermos (Name: Himes)
- 7. black/grey scarf
- 8. black running pants (medium size)
- 9. grey sweatshirt "Streamer" (large size)
- 10. blue flip flop sandles
- 11. white lightweight jogging jacket w/ hood
- 12. hunter green pullover w/ hood (small size)
- 13. grey/black knitted glove
- 14. black knitted glove
- 15. black fleece glove
- 16. white sock w/ purple heel & toe
- 17. white & yellow child's jacket "Big Bird"
- 18. pink fuschia child's jacket "flower print"
- 19. baby blanket blue w/ ducks
- 20. white t-shirt "Freaky Behavior" (large size)
- 21. white t-shirt "If not U then who?"
- 22. black t-shirt w/ Chinese dragon emblem (large size)
- 23. dark blue lightweight sweater w/ stripe (XXL size)
- 24. dark blue button-up jacket (medium size)
- 25. grey shorts w/ drawstring legs (Size 10 Women size)
- 26. blue demin pants (Size 16 Women size)
- 27. dark blue denim pants (Size 12 Women size)
- 28. grey sweatshirt "Taz playing football"
- 29. black "Ace" bandage/brace
- 30. purple/grey "airvent" airbrush
- 31. peach cometics bag "Jafra" brand
- 32. purple lion children's bookmark
- 33. yellow monkey children's bookmark
- 34. blue monkey children's bookmark
- 35. green elephant children's bookmark
- 36. black case "Victoria Jackson" pink blush compact
- 37. lip gloss "French roast" color
- 38. bead key chain w/ smiley sun (broken)
- 39. silver & glitter butterfly hair clip
- 40. black/dark blue Velcro strap watch (small)
- 41. zebra striped wrist band
- 42. dark amber sunglasses
- 43. tortoise shell sunglasses
- 44. black sunglasses
- 45. ivory plush hair barrette

### "The Demo Room" Equipment Demonstration Room

Suffering a hearing loss is in itself an overwhelming and frustrating experience. In addition to, and often because of, the loss of the ability to hear as well as before many people find themselves suddenly socially isolated and neglected to the point that it often affects their mental well-being. For someone losing his or her hearing after spending most of their life without communication barriers, suddenly (or even gradually) being "cut-off" from the world can be a traumatic event. Such events can and do have lingering effects, often enduring well beyond the hearing-loss incident itself.

How does someone "re-connect" with the world again when learning sign language, lip-reading or other forms of manual communication is difficult at best? The answer is often complicated and can vary depending on the individual. This is where the equipment demonstration room (or "Demo Room") at the Robert G. Sanderson Community Center can play an important role. Since its inception in June of 2002, the demo room - news of which has spread rapidly by word of mouth - has quickly become a fixture at the Sanderson Center. Availability of the demo room attracts people in the state of Utah from St. George all the way to Logan, and beyond!

Staff members at the Sanderson Center are often regarded as heroes as they introduce the various types of equipment available to the community. Equipment that includes amplified and specialized phones that allow people to hear on the phone again, flashers that alert people when someone is at the door, and amplified systems that allow hard of hearing people to hear what is being said, therefore feel included, in dinnertime conversations. There are even devices available that help save the ears of hearing TV viewers by allowing the volume of the television to be set at a comfortable level for them, while at the same time the Deaf or Hard of Hearing person uses a headset with an adjustable volume.

The types of assistive devices are numerous, almost to the point of becoming overwhelming. But, the equipment demonstration room at the Sanderson Community Center presents devices in a simple manner, addressing each individual's needs. Since the equipment room staff shows devices, but does not sell them, consumers can feel at ease as they try each device and learn what will help them to reconnect to the hearing world. So, come in and visit, try out some of the new technology that is available.



## DSDHH Staff can be reached by calling 801-263-4860 v/tty or 800-860-4860 v/tty (in state toll free only)

#### Marilyn Call, Division Director

#### mcall@utah.gov

#### Administration

Jorie Hill, Office Manager Karen Kendall, Admin Assistant Gary Leavitt, Event Coordinator Adam Shewell, Building & Grounds Supervisor Willis Morton, General Maintenace jrhill@utah.gov or 801-263-4886 kjkendall@utah.gov or 801-263-4860 v/tty gleavitt@utah.gov ashewell@utah.gov

#### Deaf and Hard of Hearing Programs

Eli McCowan, Program Manager Grace Watterson, Program Assistant Sue Ordonez, Hard of Hearing Specialist Laurie Moyers, Adult Education Coordinator Gloria Hall, Circle of Friends Coordinator Julie McCleave, Education Asst. (Southern Utah) Mari Moss, Education Asst. (Southern Utah) emccowan@utah.gov gwatters@utah.gov or 801-263-4868 v/tty sordonez@utah.gov Imoyers@utah.gov ghall@utah.gov jmccleave@utah.gov marimoss@utah.gov

#### Individualized Services Program

Joene Nicolaisen, Case Manager / Counselor Annette Stewart, Counselor Sherry Booth, Program Assistant jfnicolaisen@utah.gov ajstewart@utah.gov sbooth@utah.gov or 801-263-4861 v/tty

#### **Outreach and Technology Program**

Mitch Moyers, Program Manager Trenton Marsh, Electronics Specialist - "The TTY Guy" Sherry Booth, Program Assistant mmoyers@utah.gov tmarsh@utah.gov sbooth@utah.gov or 801-263-4861 v/tty

#### **Utah Interpreter Program**

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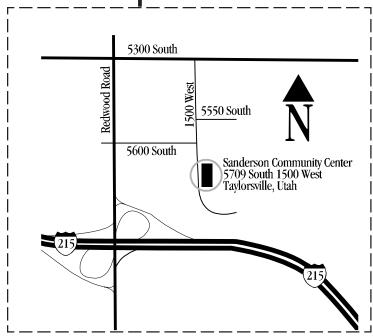
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Map to DSDHH



### Mission Statement

To provide opportunities and programs to individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing which enhance or maintain the skills necessary to fully participate in their employment, family, and community.

For questions or concerns regarding the monthly or quarterly newsletters, please contact Sherry Booth, Copy Editor, at 801-263-4861 v/tty or Mitch Moyers, Editor, at 801-263-4860 v/tty.